Restrictions on Imports

5274. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed certain restrictions on imports during the current year affecting the imports by exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The imports are regulated by the Import and Export Policy (1990-93). No additional restrictions have been imposed on imports by the Government. However, in view of the present Balance of Payment problem, RBI has introduced certain curbs which will be reviewed when the situation improves.

Impact of Devaluation of Rupee on Textile Exports

5275. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state the impact of the devaluation of rupee on the entire textile exports in quota, non-quota, rupee trade and the general currency area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): While it is expected that exports which are contracted in hard currencies will be benefitted by devaluation, it is too early to accurately assess the impact of the exchange rate adjustments of Rupee on textile exports.

Sale of REP Licences by Exporters

5276. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that REP licences available with the exporters are sold at a premium to importers;

(b) whether REP licences purchased by importers help them to import any item of their choice and to sell them in Indian markets at a huge profits; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to effectively prevent this practice by exporters and importers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). In terms of Imports & Exports Policy all REP licences, excepting those issued against the export of Gem & Jewellery product group, are valid for the import of limited permissible items (App.3), non-sensitive canalised items (App.5-A) and OGL items of raw materials, components and consumables etc. as are covered by lists 8 Part-I and 10 of Appendix 6 of Policy. These licences as well as the goods imported against them are freely transferable. As such, premium on transfer of such licences, if any, shall be governed by the demand and supply mechanism.

Quality Inspection of Big Export Houses

5277. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the big business houses, trading houses and export houses are proposed to be exempted from quality inspection certificates from the Export Inspection Agencies;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) how the quality inspection of the above export houses will be done?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SAL-

MAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). Pursuant to the policy of the government to make the exporters themselves responsible for meeting the overseas buyers' quality requirements, Star Trading Houses, Trading Houses and Export Houses have been exempted from the purview of compulsory pre-shipment inspection.

Seizure of Smuggled Gold

5278. PROF K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the contraband gold seized by customs and central excise officials during the last one year in the country, State-wise; and

(b) the details of the incentives given to the officials for seizing the smuggled gold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The quantity and value of contraband gold seized by Customs authorities throughout the country during the period from 1st July, 1990 to 30th June, 1991 is given in the table below:

Quantity (in kgs.)	Value (Rs. in crores)
*6143	*210.57

*Figures are provisional.

Sate-wise statistics of the contraband gold seized are not maintained separately.

(b) The present reward scheme provides for grant of rewards to Government servants upto the limit of Rs. 500 per 10 grams (purity of gold 999.5 milli or more) of contraband gold seized. The normal ceiling is Rs. 250 per 10 grams of gold seized. However, in exceptional cases where officers display rare initiative or effect seizures putting their lives to risk, higher reward upto the ceiling of Rs. 500 per 10 grams may be sanctioned.

Curbing Black Money

5279. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seven member expert committee on black money appointed by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has recommended a number of measures to curb generation of black money;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations made by the committee; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The report, *inter-alia* recommends that stamp duty on land transactions be reduced to 2-3 per cent, provisions of Urban Land Ceiling Act be modified, removal of controls on newsprint production and change in allocation of newsprint, delicensing of activity pertaining to raw materials, production and distribution for textiles abolition of octroi and import of gold against payment of import duty etc.

2. The recommendations/suggestions made by the Committee set up by the ASSOCHAM as also other Associations and individuals are kept in view while formulating economic policies of the Government.

[*Translation*]

Export of Ayurvedic and Unani Medicines

5280. SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: